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INITIATIVE FOR HYGIENE, SANITATION AND NUTRITION (IHSAN)

2016 – 2021

\$75.5 MILLION

OVERVIEW

The goal of USAID's Initiative for Hygiene, Sanitation and Nutrition (IHSAN) project is to improve the nutritional status of women of reproductive age and children less than five years old, focusing on the first 1,000 days (conception to 24 months of age). The expected outcomes of IHSAN are to decrease stunting by at least 5 percent over five years, and to reduce anemia among women of reproductive age by at least 10 percent. The objectives are:

- Capacity to institutionalize nutrition programs enhanced,
- Adoption of optimal nutrition and hygiene behaviors at community and household levels increased, and
- Availability of nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation services and products increased.

ACTIVITIES

- **Host-Country System Strengthening:** Work with existing structures—national, local, community, NGOs, nutrition education institutions, and the private sector—to ensure host-country ownership and sustainability for nutrition policies and frameworks
- **Responding to the Socio-Cultural and Economic Context of Afghanistan:** Tailored strategies and activities that address barriers to optimal nutrition for lactating and pregnant women and children less than two years old in rural and urban areas
- **Gender, Equality, and Female Empowerment:** Outreach and broad engagement of the larger community in support of increasing women's decision-making in family nutrition
- **Science, Technology, and Innovations:** Develop strong partnerships with the private sector, bolster adaptation of scientific and low-cost technological advances that promote hygiene, sanitation, and increased nutrition outcomes for pregnant women, infants, and young children
- **Program Learning:** Through a rigorous learning agenda, the project Support evidence-based best practices that link hygiene and sanitation activities with nutrition activities to decrease stunting

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- IHSAN launched; a Memorandum of Understanding signed between IHSAN, the MRRD, and Health Promotion Department on November 30, 2016 support for the implementation of especially Community Led Total Sanitation packages; March 2017, 85percent of staff recruited.
- IHSAN is a Zero Hunger high-level active advisory committee member under Sustainable Development Goal 2 and contributes to the Government of Afghanistan staff capacity-building efforts to develop program policies and strategies.
- Contributed to the development and finalization of the Nutrition counselors' manual, Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Sessions implementation manual, and Community-based Nutrition Package.
- In coordination with USAID's Office of Infrastructure and the UNICEF WASH team, the Society for Sustainable Development of Afghanistan provided training to nearly 300 mobilizers in eight provinces.
- Field level mobilizer implementation started in Kunar and Nuristan provinces, that screened and counseled over 8800 under five children, 4000 under two children, 1400 pregnant women and about 8500 women of reproductive age during home visits.
- IHSAN Monitoring and Evaluation activities developed data collection tools and a database for its various community-based intervention packages.
- IHSAN Innovation Fund management team successfully established the Technical Advisory Committee, and finalized the proposal solicitation Annual Program Statement.
- USAID and IHSAN signed the Environmental Management and Mitigation Plan.

Date: August 2017
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